

52.

Reward of Politeness.

Like the German proverb: "One need but carry hat in ^{539^x}
hand to travel safely throughout the land." ⁵⁷⁶

In reading this picturesque description of the reward of politeness, do not fail to remember that the person speaking is a poor, Egyptian peasant earning only his two and a half ^[465] piastres a day. (About twelve cents).

Ṣabah el-ḥēr, ya lamme!

Ṣabbah el-ward 'ala-z-zēn.

Ya min ṣabbah, saddē dēno,

wištara, we-la ba'aš 'alē dēn,

5 *wištara 'abd balfēn,*

yistahil rukab el-ḥēl.

Good morning to you assembled here!

The roses wished the glorious one good morning.

He who wishes a good morning, wipes out his debts,

And buys and has no debts,

5 And buys a black slave for two thousand,

Who is worthy to ride upon horses.

[467] ●
[435]
[554]

2. "The glorious one" is the Prophet. With this greeting of the roses, compare No. 6, l. 1 and No. 7, l. 1.

3. That is, at an exceptionally high price. The coin is not indicated; 2000 is frequently used as a large, round ^[401] number.

6. After the manner of a gentleman.